



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/564,763

01/17/2006

Andrew Hunter

4590-479

1764

33308 7590 12/18/2006
LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP
1700 DIAGNOSTIC ROAD, SUITE 300
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TRUC T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
--	-----------	---------------

3 MONTHS

12/18/2006

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/564,763

Applicant(s)

HUNTER

Examiner

Truc T. T. Nguyen

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-26, 36-38 and 40-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 27-35, 39 and 43-45 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/17/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 24-26, 35, 40-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nabetani et al. (US 6,219,231).

Regarding claims 24, 40-42, Nabetani et al. discloses a two-part electrical connector (Fig. 16), comprising:

a first part (111) having a base (an end portion of the body 111) and a tongue (the body itself of the first part is a flat tongue like shape) extending longitudinally therefrom;

a second part (114) including a socket portion having a base (119) and walls (115a, 115b, and a portion of base 119) extending therefrom defining a socket for slidably receiving the tongue (111), the tongue portion and socket portion having a locking means (113a, 113b, 116a, 116b, 117a, 117b) to permit releasable mutual engagement, said locking means including a locking member (116a, 116b, 117a, 117b) moveable between a first position in which the tongue (111) is held in the socket and a second position in which the tongue (111) is removable from the socket;

a primary coupling element (not shown, Col. 11, L. 7-8) located in the tongue; and

a secondary coupling element (118) located in at least on one of the socket wall (a portion of base 119); which elements provide a contact-less electromagnetic coupling when the tongue is engaged in the socket (Col. 10, L. 50-55);

the two-part electrical connector is to transmit electrical signal between electrical equipment.

Regarding claim 25, Nabetami et al. discloses the secondary coupling element (118) extends longitudinally adjacent a corresponding inner surface of the socket wall (portion of base 119, Fig. 16),

the longitudinally extending of the primary coupling element is not shown but this feature is seen to be an inherent teaching since a means for coupling is formed inside of the first part at a location selected to correspond to the secondary coupling element (Col. 11, L. 7-10) is disclosed and it is apparent that primary coupling must be extended longitudinally adjacent an outer surface of the first part (111) for the first and second parts to function as intended.

The primary and secondary coupling elements are overlapped permits lateral and or longitudinal movement of the tongue (111) within the socket while maintaining electromagnetic coupling.

Regarding claim 26, Nabetami et al. discloses the primary and secondary coupling elements are primary and secondary inductors, respectively, and each includes a conductive coils wound around a ferromagnetic core.

Regarding claim 36, Nabetami et al. disclose the locking means includes a resilient latch (116a, 116b, 117a, 117b) and a detent (113a, 113b) for cooperating with the latch.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nabetami et al. (US 6,219,231).

Nabetami et al. substantially disclosed the claimed invention except the locking means being reversed in such a way that the resilient latch is located on the tongue and the detent is located in the socket wall.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to reverse the locking means of Nabetami's two-part connector in such a way that the resilient latch is located on the tongue and the detent is located in the socket wall. Since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Einstein*, 8 USPQ 167.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 27-35, 39, and 43-45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 27-34, the prior art of record fails to teach the secondary conductive coil is located in the socket base and the secondary inductor core has two elongated arms extending into

Art Unit: 2833

the socket walls so that when the tongue is engaged in the socket, the primary inductor is located between the two arms.

Claim 34, the prior art of record fails to teach the socket wall contains an aperture adjacent the socket base so that dirt and dust can escape from the socket when the tongue is engaged in the socket.

Claim 35, the prior art of record fails to teach the baffles extending from the mouth end of the socket to a point spaced from the base of the socket so that dirt and debris pushed into the guide channel by the tongue can escape from the guide channel through the space between the socket base and the baffles.

Claim 39, the prior art of record fails to teach a webbing strap included electrical wires which are electrically connected to a coupling element in the connector.

Claims 43-45, the prior art of record fails to teach the method including a step of detecting the engagement of the connector and adjusting the current characteristic in response to the detected status.

Conclusion

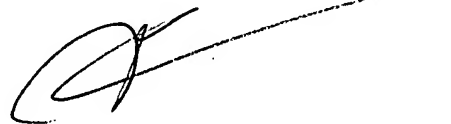
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T. T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2011. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2833

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Truc T. T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2833

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'T' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.